

## Message Text

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21

ACTION PM-04

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 DOTE-00 EB-07  
FMC-01 INR-07 NSAE-00 SAL-01 CG-00 DLOS-06 OES-06  
FAA-00 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 L-03 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00  
INRE-00 /065 W

----- 041467

O R 081054Z DEC 76

FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 9456

INFO SECDEF WASHDC

CNO WASHDC

COGARD

CHESNAVFACENGCOM WASHDC

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

CONFIDENTIAL CANBERRA 8851

FROM OMEGA TEAM

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

SECDEF FOR OASD/ISA

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: AS, MARR, ETRN

SUBJ: OMEGA AUSTRALIA NEGOTIATIONS

1. INITIAL MEETING DEC 7 WITH DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION OFFICIALS (JACOBE AND ANDREWS) REVEALED THAT SECOND AUSTRALIAN DRAFT (WHICH WE RECEIVED NOV 29) WAS PRACTICALLY SET IN CONCRETE. JACOBE STATED: (A) THAT TEXT HAD BEEN APPROVED BY INTER-DEPARTMENTAL OMEGA COMMITTEE, WHICH HE CHAIRS, AND THUS AT PERMANENT SECRETARY LEVEL IN THE SIX DEPARTMENTS REPRESENTED, AND (B) THAT THE TEXT HAD BEEN DRAFTED IN CANBERRA (WE ASSUME BY DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS) PRECISELY TO MEET THE DEMANDS AND CONDITIONS OF THE JOINT PARLIAMENTARY REPORT OF MAY 1975, IN ORDER TO PLACE THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT IN THE BEST POSSIBLE TACTICAL POSITION IN THE TOUGH BATTLE SHAPING UP WITH OMEGA OPPOSITION AND LEFT-WING UNIONS ONCE CABINET APPROVAL IS ANNOUNCED (TENTATIVELY SCHEDULED FOR MARCH).

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2. IN THESE CIRCUMSTANCES, WE RESORTED TO THE TERMINATION CLAUSE OPTION. JACOBE EXPRESSED TENTATIVE SUPPORT FOR OUR PROPOSAL ON THE "POLITICAL" PARAGRAPHS (THE GOLDSMITH FORMULATION PROVIDING FOR TERMINATION BY EITHER GOVERNMENT AT WILL IN RETURN FOR DELETION OF THE UNACCEPTABLE SUSPENSION PROVISION IN PARA 6). AND AGREED TO REFER THIS PROPOSAL TO DFA.

3. IN NEGOTIATIONS DEC 8 IN CANBERRA, DFA REPRESENTATIVE ON OMEGA COMMITTEE, MAX HUGHES, HOWEVER, DESCRIBED THE NO-NOTICE TERMINATION-AT-WILL PROVISION AS AN EXTREMELY WORRISOME PRECEDENT FOR THE GOA, SINCE IT COULD INSPIRE OPPOSITION DEMANDS FOR A SIMILAR PROVISION IN FUTURE US-AUSTRALIAN AGREEMENTS. (AT EARLIER DISCUSSION AT THE EMBASSY AND WITH THE AMBASSADOR, A SIMILAR CONCERN HAD BEEN VOICED BY USAF AND OTHER AGENCY REPRESENTATIVES CURRENTLY NEGOTIATING AGREEMENTS WITH THEIR AUSTRALIAN COUNTERPARTS.) WE ADMITTED VALIDITY OF THIS POINT AND AGREED TO SEEK FURTHER INSTRUCTIONS AS TO WHETHER A MODIFIED SUSPENSION CLAUSE ALONG FOLLOWING LINES WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE:

"PARA 6. ON THE COMPLETION OF THE FACILITY, THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT SHALL MAKE ARRANGEMENTS FOR BEGINNING THE REGULAR TRANSMISSION OF SIGNALS BY THE FACILITY AS A PART OF THE WORLD-WIDE OMEGA SYSTEM. THE AUSTRALIAN AND UNITED STATES GOVERNMENTS SHALL USE THEIR BEST ENDEAVORS TO ENSURE THE CONTINUOUS OPERATION OF THEIR RESPECTIVE FACILITIES IN PHASE WITH THE WORLD-WIDE OMEGA SYSTEM AND AGREE TO CONSULT URGENTLY IF AN EMERGENCY SITUATION ARISES WHICH REQUIRES THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT TO CEASE TEMPORARILY THE OPERATION OF THE FACILITY." (COMMENT: WITH SUCH A PARA 6, THE TERMINATION FORMULATION IN THE COMPLIMENTARY CLOSE WOULD BE THAT OF THE AUSTRALIAN NOV 29 TEXT PROVIDING FOR SIX MONTHS NOTICE.)  
PLEASE ADVISE.

4. IF THIS FORMULATION OF PARA 6 IS ACCEPTABLE, REQUEST AUTHORITY TO INFORM JACOBE AND HUGHES ON DEC 10 THAT THEIR NOV 29 TEXT WITH THE FOLLOWING MODIFICATIONS IS AN AGREED AD REFERENDUM TEXT:

PREAMBLE: "EXCELLENCY, I HAVE THE HONOR TO REFER TO RECENT  
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DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN REPRESENTATIVES OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA CONCERNING THE ESTABLISHMENT IN SOUTH-EASTERN AUSTRALIA OF AN OMEGA NAVIGATION FACILITY CAPABLE OF BEING USED BY ANY SUITABLY EQUIPPED SHIP OR AIRCRAFT.

IN THE LIGHT OF THESE DISCUSSIONS I HAVE THE HONOUR TO PROPOSE THAT AN OMEGA NAVIGATION FACILITY BE ESTABLISHED, OPERATED AND MAINTAINED BY THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT AS AN

AUSTRALIAN FACILITY FOR THE PURPOSE OF IMPROVING THE NAVIGATIONAL  
EFFICIENCY OF MARINERS AND AVIATORS OF ALL NATIONS, AND THAT,  
TO THIS END, AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN OUR TWO GOVERNMENTS BE CONCLUDED  
IN THE FOLLOWING TERMS:"

PARAS 1, 2, 3, AND 4 - NO CHANGE.

PARA 5 - "THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT SHALL BE SOLELY RESPONSIBLE  
FOR OPERATING, MANAGING, MAINTAINING, AND STAFFING THE FCILITY  
AND SHALL BEAR THE COST THEREOF."

PARA 6 - AS ABOVE.

PARA 7 - "OMEGA SIGNALS FORM THE FACILITY SHALL BE USED ONLY  
FOR NAVIGATION, FOR SEARCH AND RESCUE OPERATIONS, FOR TIME  
DISSEMINATION AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES AS AGREED BY BOTH  
GOVERNMENTS, BUT NOT FOR COMMUNICATIONS OTHER THAN THAT  
NECESSARY TO THE INTEGRATED OPERATION OF THE FACILITY AS  
PART OF THE WORLD-WIDE OMEGA SYSTEM."

PARA 8 - NO CHANGE.

PARA 9 - NO CHANGE. (COMMENT: JACOBE IS INVESTIGATING  
THE TAX EXEMPTION FOR SERVICES WITH HIS TAX AUTHORITIES AND MAY  
ACCEPT THE WORDS "AND SERVICES" IN THIS PARA OR IN THE SUPPLEMENTARY  
AGREEMENTS TO BE SIGNED BETWEEN THE CO-OPEATING AGENCIES.

PARA 10 - "WHENEVER THE CO-OPERATING AGENCIES AGREE THAT THE  
WHOLE OR ANY PART OF THE EQUIPMENT AND MATERIALS LISTED IN THE  
ANNEX TO THIS AGREEMENT ARE NO LONGER REQUIRED FOR THE PURPOSES  
OF THIS AGREEMENT, SUCH WHOLE OR PART AND SUCH OTHER EQUIPMENT  
AND MATERIALS AS THE CO-OPERATING AGENCIES AGREE SHOULD  
ALSO BE RETURNED TO THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT SHALL BE  
RETURNED TO THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT FOR CONVEYANCE FROM  
AUSTRALIA OR, UPON CONDITIONS AGREED BY THE TWO GOVERNMENTS,  
FOR DISPOSAL IN AUSTRALIA."

PARA 11, 12 - NO CHANGE

PARA 13 - "THE AUTRALIAN GOVERNMENT, AS OPERATOR OF THE FACILITY,  
WILL CO-OPERATE WITH OTHER COUNTRIES OPERATING OMEGA FACILITIES  
AND WILL USE ITS BEST ENDEAVOURS, AS WILL THE UNITED STATES  
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GOVERNMENT, TO ESTABLISH AN APPROPRIATE INTERNATIONAL REGIME  
FOR THE COORDINATED OPERATION OF THE OMEGA SYSTEM."

PARA 14 - NO CHANGE

COMPLIMENTARY CLOSE - NO CHANGE.

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptoning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** AGREEMENTS, CONSTRUCTION, MILITARY BASES, NAVIGATIONAL AIDS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 08 DEC 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** SmithRJ  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
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**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
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**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** SmithRJ  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 24 MAY 2004  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <24 MAY 2004 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <21 SEP 2004 by SmithRJ>  
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Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
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04 MAY 2006

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**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** OMEGA AUSTRALIA NEGOTIATIONS  
**TAGS:** MARR, ETRN, AS  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006